

INSIDE THE BELTWAY

The Washington Post _____
 The New York Times _____
 The Washington Times A-6
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The Christian Science Monitor _____
 New York Daily News _____
 USA Today _____
 The Chicago Tribune _____

Date 25 AUG 1988

Too much secrecy

Former CIA Director Stansfield Turner says the secrecy pledges required of intelligence officers result in a "gross abuse of the constitutional right to free speech." He says such pledges should be limited to 10 years and subject to congressional oversight of their enforcement. Publishers Weekly reports that Mr. Turner described to a congressional subcommittee the "absurd" demands made by the CIA when he submitted his book, "Secrecy and Democracy," for prepublication review.

"I was not permitted in my book to refer to the use of photographic satellites for any purpose other than verification of arms control agreements," he says. "It is, of course, absurd to attempt to tell the American people that we have photographic satellites and do not employ them for any other purpose than arms control."

The Weekly says that since Frank Snepp defied secrecy rules with his book, "Decent Interval," a number of former CIA agents have complained about the pledge.



Former CIA Director Stansfield Turner, now an author, says agency secrecy restrains free speech.